

bromophenol blue, in PCR. According to Park, these stabilizing and sedimenting agents reduce contamination in PCR by minimizing sample handling (See Park at column 3, line 58 through column 4, line 14). Park does not disclose the inhibition of non-PCR nucleic acid amplification. In addition, the stabilizing and sedimenting agents disclosed in Park stabilize PCR reagents and do not inhibit any reaction.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 475412000301. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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